

PEACE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of the Peace Pledge Union serving all who are working for Peace

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Raw Materials: A "Human" Solution?

WHILE FINANCE MAKES MATTERS WORSE

WHILE statesmen continue to "shout across Europe" (in the expressive phrase used by Lord Ponsonby in PEACE NEWS recently) renewed efforts are being made in a quieter and more hopeful way by men meeting, not in the consciousness of prestige, but on a basis of common humanity.

While the President of the United States has been discussing with his intimate friend and Ambassador to France, William C. Bullitt, the possibilities of a new initiative, George Lansbury is planning to visit Herr Hitler early in April in Berlin.

The two meetings are closely connected. For not only does Mr. Lansbury's visit follow similar visits to President Roosevelt and the chief statesmen in France and the Scandinavian countries, but Ambassador Bullitt is described by Mr. Lansbury (in an interview with PEACE NEWS) as being "as much my friend as Roosevelt's friend."

RESPONSIBILITY OF "HAVE" POWERS

DESPITE the tremendous handicap of a public opinion "scared stiff" at the very thought of taking part in efforts for the peace of the world, because the only intervention in Europe's affairs that it can conceive of is warlike intervention, President Roosevelt is held back from giving the nations the lead they are longing for only by the difficulty of knowing just how to break down the barriers of suspicion and prestige which hinder the solution of outstanding problems.

Two methods are open to him. One is to appeal to this country at least to suspend its gigantic armament programme on the ground that it is definitely increasing the difficulties.

The other is to tackle the raw materials problem in a realistic manner.

As reported on another page, the work of the League Committee on Raw Materials has been virtually suspended until June. Yet the remarkable rise in certain world commodity prices is making the position of the "have-not" countries more grievous than ever.

The fact that the rise in price has been definitely "engineered by cartels under Government sponsorship" in at least two cases—tin and rubber—to quote the *Observer's* New York correspondent) is a specific example of the responsibility which lies with the "have" Powers for easing the world situation.

PERSONAL CONTACT

Nevertheless, much importance attaches to George Lansbury's visit to Berlin. However sincerely the "have" countries may now repent, years of the cunning and crafty politics of



President Roosevelt

nationalism have inevitably left suspicion in the minds of the leaders of the "have-not" peoples.

Mr. Lansbury's object, he told a PEACE NEWS reporter, was not only to tell Herr Hitler what he has been telling the leading statesmen in Western Europe and the United States ever since his resignation of the leadership of the Labour Party in the House of Commons, but to ascertain the Führer's real attitude as a human being and put it to him that the time has come for statesmen to sit down together and discuss their problems as friends instead of plunging Europe into barbarism.

"He himself," said Mr. Lansbury, "drew attention to the fact that for centuries Europe was divided on religion. In the end—he said this himself—'we have had to live together. . . Surely we can find a way to live in peace.'"

And Mr. Lansbury is going to express his agreement and suggest that they find that way.

"SINGLE DEFINITE PURPOSE"

Encouragement for efforts such as those of President Roosevelt and

German Fights German in Spain

To the Editor of PEACE NEWS

It is great news that the "Grand Old Man of Pacifism" is to visit Herr Hitler in the near future.

Let every pacifist send Uncle George a post card with best wishes.

Let the peace organizations rouse every church from its lethargy to urgent prayer for the outcome of this interview. May we have a call back to peace.

L. O. BROWN.

34 Egerton Road,
Bristol, 7.

AUCTIONS IN AID OF SPAIN

Autographed Books and Manuscripts

DR. H. R. L. SHEPPARD is to conduct at 8.30 this evening one of a series of three auctions at Foyle's Book Shop, Charing Cross Road, London, of autographed books and manuscripts and other books in aid of Spanish medical relief.

It is hoped that all pacifists who can will go to these auctions, which will also take place at 2.30 and 6 p.m. today.

The first auction will be opened by Flora Robson, the actress.

George Lansbury can come from ordinary folk like the group of ministers and laymen in Lytham St. Annes which has issued a statement urging that "all groups which are working for peace should at once postpone all debate on details and unite in a single definite purpose," namely

For Great Britain to make a clear and unequivocal declaration to the world, pledging ourselves that if the nations will call a halt to their rearmament schemes we will suspend our own programme and will take the responsibility of calling a world conference to deal with the problems of colonial expansion, raw materials, and the freeing of international trade.

Mr. G. K. Crocker, 12 Laverton Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancashire, signs the statement.

DEPTHS TO WHICH WAR LEADS MEN

IT is, we hope, unnecessary to remind readers of PEACE NEWS that war today means that man sinks to depths of degradation for which the term "bestial" is much too mild.

Terrible evidence of the truth of this has been provided in a recent dispatch from our Special Correspondent at Castellon-de-la-Plana, who had just visited a German member of the International Brigade in hospital there.

As readers need no horror propaganda, we are not printing his description of this man's wounds and suffering, which, it is pointed out, might have been inflicted by his own compatriots serving with the insurgents.

His experience, however, has led our Special Correspondent to write: "I feel inclined to drop my work among the children . . . and come home and challenge the biggest heavyweight militarists I can find, one after the other, and dare them to silence me."

"I am afraid you will think all this a little hysterical. Perhaps it is."

"There are times when one has to be badly stung to play at the top of one's form. And I am 'all het up' by what I saw this morning. What I have written is nothing to it!"

"And I had to find a kiosk and swallow a glass of good red wine before I could master my unruly thoughts and scribble them down on the backs of envelopes."

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"OUR AIM IS PEACE"

—and Battleships!

THERE is little more that societies and associations whose object is peace can do to promote their cause.

This is the immediate reaction produced by part of Mr. Winston Churchill's recent speech at the annual dinner of the British Iron and Steel Federation, for he declared that

"we aim at peace and we seek peace; our interest is peace and our hope is peace. Nothing that we can do to preserve, nothing that we can give in patience and forbearance to preserve peace will be lacking in these difficult years."

Unfortunately, however, Mr. Churchill also gave evidence that he had not yet learnt the real lesson of the Great War, for the admirable sentiments quoted above were preceded by an expression of "very great relief and satisfaction" at the fact that "we are going to build new battleships and we are going to rebuild the fleet."

He was also very anxious that our intention to build five new battleships should "have the effect of stimulating in the United States the building of a similar squadron," as this would doubly reinforce the forces working for "freedom, peace, and the reign of law."

He did not add what use the reinforcements would be if naval building were stimulated among the forces working for what he would no doubt consider to be ends opposed to "freedom, peace, and the reign of law."

STUDENTS REJECT "REARMAMENT"

From Our Own Correspondent

A JUSTIFICATION of the Government's "rearmament" programme as being necessary for national "defence" and as a contribution to world peace was made by Mr. J. R. H. Cartland, M.P., at a debate in Liverpool University last week.

Mr. Cartland was supported by Colonel Vere Cotton, and opposed by Mr. Leonard Barnes and Mr. G. G. Thomson. Mr. Cartland's motion was rejected by 98 votes to 27.

The only case where pacifism had been used successfully, asserted Mr. Cartland, was by the Quakers in North America, where it had been accompanied by earnest prayer. As the Government had no guarantee that ninety percent of the people in this country were prepared to use earnest prayer, they had to take measures of rearmament relative to those of other countries.

Mr. Barnes stated that, although he was not a complete pacifist, he failed to see how the black of foreign armament, plus the black of British armament, could possibly make the white of peace.

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Reflections and Comments

HOW ARE THE PEOPLE DUPED?

asks LORD PONSONBY

HERE is a quotation from a speech: "I must therefore augment my naval and military forces for prevention (of the pursuit by a foreign Power of conquest and aggrandisement) and internal defence, being persuaded that these exertions are necessary in the present state of affairs and are best calculated to maintain tranquillity and render a firm and temperate conduct for preserving the blessings of peace."

WE DIDN'T SAY IT

Great things were done by the battalions of the Devon regiment, and great things would be done again if, unhappily, the occasion arose.

Major Ralph Rayner, M.P.

* * * * *

Even the Vikings did not come here to take away what belonged to others, but because they could not get land in Norway.

M. Erik Colban (Norwegian Minister.)

* * * * *

To begin with, the term collective "security" is obviously not English.

Mr. J. L. Garvin.

* * * * *

Herr Peyer, challenged to a duel in Budapest, has replied that he is an artillery-man, and he proposes to conduct the combat with two cannon, "the one to be placed on a hill to the north of Budapest, and the other on a hill to the south." An ingenious idea; but duelling will never be really up-to-date until the parties can arrange to drop bombs on each other.

"Observer" in the Observer.

* * * * *

They had never pretended they could provide anybody with 100 percent protection in time of war; if that were possible war would be useless.

Wing-Commander E. J. Hodson.

* * * * *

Potatoes have the further merit of being least vulnerable to air attack of all potential breadstuffs.

Lord Bledisloe.

* * * * *

In 1914 a general was visiting jail looking for recruits. The Governor said that one convict, whom the general thought likely, could not be released. He was in for manslaughter. "That's what we want him for," said the general.

From the Tom Walls film *For Valour*.

* * * * *

Civil war neurosis is no less unbalancing than international war psychosis. Men at war are mad, and men at war with their own countrymen are the maddest of all.

Leader in *Glasgow Evening News*.

This is not part of a speech to be delivered by King George VI drafted by Mr. Baldwin, but part of a speech of King George III, in 1792, drafted by Mr. Pitt. Six weeks later the war began which lasted, with two brief intervals, until 1815.

It seems to us so obvious that piling up armaments cannot bring peace. But what a mass of people just now, in the face of glaring instances to the contrary, seem to believe it can! and seem so happy about it!

★ ★

WHAT makes them think it can? I have been trying to analyze the various causes which can induce a large population to allow themselves to be duped.

I would put first, I think, the herd instinct which, by modern methods can be played on very successfully and by which originality and independence of thought can be extinguished.

The momentum of an easily driven herd carries people off their feet, picks up the thoughtless and the indifferent and engenders a pleasurable excitement and a warming corporate drive in which investigation and examination by the individual can have no place.

The simplicity of the proposition that if you have two guns you can beat a man who has only one seems indisputable. They give no thought to the further proposition that if he takes another gun and has two, you will have to have four and so on.

They rush along together because they want to be "in it." Women in villages are already beginning to think they are "doing their bit" by arranging anti-gas lectures and drill.

★ ★

NEXT I would place a certain sort of temperament. There are sanguine and truculent people to whom force appeals and no amount of argument will persuade them otherwise.

Their dominance in their community makes them valuable agents in the driving of the herd. They are tremendously sentimental and have a rich store of tags about "the nation's honour," "the glorious record of the Army or the Navy," "the Empire on which the sun never sets," "defend your hearth and home," &c., and their raucous proclamation of their patriotism deafens reason and suppresses argument.

These are the old-fashioned warmongers whom, we had hoped, more rational views on the interdependence of nations had suppressed. Unfortunately, however, their ranks have been swollen by a so-called intellectual element who boast of their indignant morality and acute perception in international affairs.

THIS is the section of the supporters of peace by regulation, by force, and by punishment.

They walk about with copies of the Covenant of the League of Nations which they believe to have been divinely inspired and only capable of the interpretation they give it.

"The aggressor must be punished" is their motto, and they cleverly stimulate the truculent gang, and through them the herd, by indignantly insisting at the appropriate moment "You must not let (Mussolini, Hitler, the Japs, or whoever it may be) get away with it."

They are furious if you remind them that Great Britain in time past has very often "got away with it" and that therefore it may be some time before other nations can be prevented from following our example.

They are very patient with warmongers because they try to show them how regulated force and participation in war within prescribed limits (always pretending there can be limits) would bring peace to the world. They are very impatient with the pacifists because we cut the ground from under their feet.

★ ★

BUT I must not leave out just pure snobbery. Someone said to me the other day that we were fundamentally a nation of snobs. I do not like to think it, but I am afraid it is rather true.

To be "in" with people of higher "social standing" is the ambition of a very large section of the population. So that what society, the magnates, the landlords, and the parsons decree must be right and obedience will find favour in higher quarters.

A government composed of representatives of the upper classes can wield far more authority than a government in which members of the working class figure. So without argument or any intensive methods of persuasion the former can count on the complete acquiescence of a vast number of people who never hear or read a speech, never listen to an argument and never trouble to think.

At the most they are guided by headlines and headlines just now reflect the acquiescence of the mass and should war come the same process would have the same result. It sounds pretty hopeless. Yet it is not as hopeless as it seems.

Remember the subtle power of even a small quantity of leaven.

Arthur Ponsonby

BRUTALITY UNDER BRITISH RULE

ONLY WAY FORWARD FOR SPAIN

No Peace Through Victory

THE pacifist case that violence cannot produce real peace or justice is likely to be illustrated by the war in Spain. For whichever side "wins" will almost certainly have to adopt despotic methods toward those of its opponents who may chance to survive.

A suggestion of the only way in which peace may be attained without domination is made by the Rev. Henry Carter in an article in the current issue of *Peace* (the organ of the National Peace Council, 39 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, price 2d.). "The hatreds inflamed by war," writes Mr. Carter, who was a member of the churches' delegation which recently returned from Spain, "are sufficient reasons for dreading the consequences of victory through violence.

"Supposing Franco conquered Valencia and Catalonia by aerial bombing and kindred horrors; does anyone who knows the spirit of the Valencian or Catalan imagine that their submission compelled by brute force, would be followed by years of peace?

"Conversely the people of Navarre and of the region around Burgos, steeped in the old Catholic tradition, doubtless have little sympathy with the left wing propaganda which is the atmosphere of Barcelona.

THE WAY OUT

"Thoughtful citizens with whom one spoke in Spain felt that, politically, the one way forward was by frank recognition of regional autonomy, together with the linking up of autonomous regions in a federal republic. The example of Switzerland will help to make the point clear.

"German-speaking, French-speaking, and Italian-speaking Cantons form a Federal Swiss Republic.

"It may be that the time has not yet come for efforts at mediation, whether on these or other lines. But I plead that lovers of Spain shake themselves free from the fatalistic belief that only through bloodshed added to bloodshed can an end come to the present struggle."

A VALUABLE SERVICE

The Peace and Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organizations (of 6 Rue Adhémar Fabri, Geneva) is appealing for £1,000 to carry on its work.

This consists of educational work, of creating an enlightened public opinion. A news service and bulletins provide a valuable commentary on international issues of the moment.

Organizing a study conference for peace leaders to spread knowledge of underlying causes of barriers to peace and practical ways and means of promoting peace is another useful part of its work.

How an Unarmed Chief Was Shot

NATIVE SUFFERING IN SAMOA

Special to PEACE NEWS

THE story of the origin of the grievances which are causing unrest in British Samoa has been told to PEACE NEWS by Mrs. Mary Drury.

Mrs. Drury has just returned to England after travelling for some years in Australasia on behalf of the Children's League of Peace and Good Will. Starting in New Zealand about six years ago, she went next to the Samoan Islands, where she tried to promote a better understanding between the natives and the New Zealand authorities.

"THE Samoan people," she told PEACE NEWS, "were very reticent about all the suffering they had passed through during the years of New Zealand administration. It was from Europeans that I heard the story and the reasons for the deep desire to be free of New Zealand rule.

"Their first experience of it was during the War when they witnessed the brutal way the deportation of German residents was carried out, many of whom were intimate friends.

"Next some 1,600 young New Zealand troops were sent over whose conduct disgusted the people. . .

"The then Prime Minister of New Zealand travelling that way insisted on putting ashore on the island, although there were cases of the influenza plague on board. As a result the people were affected and a quarter of the entire population died of the dread disease.

SHOT THEIR CHIEF

"Administrators were appointed whose high-handed treatment almost destroyed the beautiful communal mode of living of the people. As a result of their passive protest, Tamasese, their Chief, was martyred while following in a procession to welcome back an Australian who was manager for a trading firm.

"Tamasese was shot not only while he was unarmed and unaggressive, but while he was actually imploring his people to keep the peace.

"Four chiefs also were shot who went to his rescue.

"The leading Samoans who were left were then driven into the bush and the villages surrounded in order to prevent food being sent to them and with the hope that the men would return to protect their wives and children."

Mrs. Drury then explained how the soldiers entered the quarters where women and children were asleep, in the search for the men. When the Chief's widow afterward asked the Administrator to see that no repetition of the indignity took place, he said roughly, "You must make your men come out of the bush and submit to us."

"This we cannot do," replied Mrs. Tamasese, for it is not the custom in Samoa for women to take any part in administrative or political life."

Mrs. Drury added that concern was being felt at the influence on the Samoans of boxing matches, horse-racing and encouragement to bet and gamble, and the films provided by the Administration.

"MILITARISM IS A RACKET"

—U.S. GENERAL

Social Security Better Than Arms

THE current craze for "rearmament" which is sweeping the world has infected even countries which, for geographical reasons if for no others, might have been expected to remain somewhat aloof from panic policies.

In Canada, for example, the Government has just presented its estimates for the "defence" forces, and during the debate in the Canadian House of Commons nineteen M.P.s (including eleven of the Social Credit Party of seventeen) supported an amendment which

viewed "with grave concern the startling increases of expenditure proposed by the Government for purposes of national armament in contrast with the inadequate provision for the social security of all sections of the Canadian people."

One member (Mr. Rowe) who spoke in support of the amendment quoted the words of General Smedley Butler, who had served 35 years in the American Army. General Butler had written in 1935:—

"I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism.

"I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession I never had an original thought until I left the Service. . .

"Let us remember that the military ideal of our country has never been defensive warfare. Since the revolution, only the United Kingdom has beaten our record for square miles of territory acquired by military conquest."

PROFITS OF WAR

President Wilson's statement, a few days before his death, that "the seeds of war are sown in hot, successful commercial rivalry" was also quoted by Mr. Rowe, who declared that 21,000 new millionaires had been created in the United States as a direct result of war-time activities.

Another M.P. pointed out that "the best guarantee for external security is internal security.

"I believe," he said, "that the best and . . . the only real contribution which Canada can make to the peace of the world, is to bring about such a condition of things that the Canadian people may enjoy real security in Canada."

Four members of the Social Credit Party voted for the increased Estimates, and two abstained.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LEPROSY IN AFRICA

A True "Mission of Civilization"

THE methods employed by Mussolini's armies in carrying out Italy's "civilizing mission" in Abyssinia have received condemnation from many quarters, but it must be remembered that the "civilization" taken to Africa by other European Powers has often been of very doubtful benefit to the native population.

For this reason it is encouraging to find that there are instances of the best in civilization being used for the relief of suffering.

One such instance of this is the progressive humanitarian work of ten

voluntary workers in Nigeria. These young men have been working for the British Empire Relief Association and the Toc H for two years and are all unpaid except for living expenses.

Three of these volunteers who have returned on leave went to the House of Commons last week to attend a meeting held by the House of Commons Group of Toc H.

A few years ago a visit paid by the Rev. P. B. ("Tubby") Clayton to Nigeria was made the occasion to reorganize the campaign against leprosy in West Africa. This work is largely the result of the Group a few years ago bringing the need to the notice of the Colonial Office.

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HEADQUARTERS' NOTES AND COMMENTS

By MAX PLOWMAN

96 Regent Street,
London, W.1.

AS readers of PEACE NEWS already know, "Miss Regent" has given up her regency. There is no king to reign in her stead—merely an adjutant to carry out company orders. In this column the Editor has very kindly given me leave to write precisely what I please; and since this is the chance of a life time, I really mean to enjoy myself and to let the telephone ring and the call boy wait while I have a quiet word with group leaders, voluntary workers, active pacifists, passive pacifists, and such military-minded persons as benefit our cause by buying our paper.

"Christians awake!"—also socialists, communists, conservatives, liberals, free thinkers *et hoc genus omne!*—not, alas, to salute the happy morn, but to see what is happening to the people of this country under a government that is gently but firmly pushing us all into war again, as in the days before the flood. "Rouse up, O young men of the New Age! Set your foreheads against the ignorant hirelings! For we have hirelings in the camp, the court, and the university who would, if they could, for ever depress mental and prolong corporeal war"—as Blake said.

And how does the next war begin? It begins with "Precautions against Air Attack." Organize the whole countryside into bodies of persons fitted with rubbishing gas masks: let them dig gas-proof dug-outs and learn to act on the word of command and in two twos you have everyone as good as conscripted. While Smith digs the humanitarian dug-out, Jones takes charge of the humanitarian anti-aircraft gun for the protection of his wife and children in Smith's dug-out; and before Smith, the humanitarian, has had time to turn round, he finds himself dropping bombs of the largest size "as an active measure of defence" on the women and children of Berlin, Rome, Paris, or Madrid.

It begins with "rearmament." Brown, the communist is on the dole. He is offered the choice of making shells at a good wage-rate, or of starving: not by a fascist government, oh no! but by a "National" government busy turning the British nation into a totalitarian State. And the more shells he makes, the more certain it grows that he will be sitting in trenches when the shells go off. So, between bread and munitions, he can make no distinction. He signs his death-warrant with his means of livelihood. And if no one is ready to fight for him NOW, he marches to war with the inevitability and precision of an automaton.

Many pacifists want to know what to do. My advice is: **Think hard in terms of actuality** and see what conclusions you come to. The P.P.U. is a body of individuals who have come to an individual conviction. What that conviction implies it is your business to discover for yourself. Don't ask me if you ought to join organizations which will be of the

(Continued foot of next column)

DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH WALES

By JOHN BARCLAY

LAST Friday I motored back from South Wales by night after spending five days with David Spreckley speaking at inaugural meetings of the P.P.U.

Between us we spoke to eleven groups and started six others. But my final impression is of having received much more than I gave.

Everywhere I went I was inspired by the prevailing sense of quiet heroism as well as depressed by the appalling poverty. There is no space this week to tell of our adventures, but one conviction I have: you will find the men and women who are prepared to stand with you in the hard months ahead in Rhondda the valley of unemployment.

WHAT OFFERS?

"I have stoutly been maintaining for months past that Wales is strongly pacifist," writes Miss Edith A. Williams, a Welsh school teacher (of Rossiana, Pine Avenue, Hastings).

"What of the Welsh children's broadcast message of peace in May, the refusal of Cardiff Boys' High School Education Authority to 'turn the school into a barracks' by forming an O.T.C. in the school, and so on?"

"Is it that among the leaders of the Peace Pledge Union there is no Welsh-speaking one to visit the more rural counties of Wales?"

"If such a one could be found, I, for one, would pledge myself to a small subscription annually toward his maintenance, as long as means allow."

"How many Welsh men and women will follow suit?"

STUDY GROUPS

The need for coordinating all those working for peace was pointed out by the Rev. J. Townsend at a meeting held in Manchester last week.

An outline of the aims of the P.P.U. was given by Mr. Kirkley, Manchester secretary of the P.P.U.

Anybody wishing to meet in small groups for study, discussion, and so on should communicate with Miss E. Russell, 59 High Street, or Mrs. Dooley, 23 Lincoln Grove, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester.

Another meeting is to be held in a month's time.

(Continued from column one)

greatest assistance to war-waging authority. Think it out for yourself.

One word about Volunteers. I want to raise squads of **absolutely reliable** emergency workers. I want people who can take orders, wait orders, obey, and give whole days at a time exclusively to the service of the P.P.U. I want in a word, bodies of absolutely devoted voluntary workers to put their qualifications on half a sheet of notepaper, send them to me, and then to wait for their calling-up orders. And I only want those who are ready to work like slaves in the cause of peace.

A CALL TO ACTION

By DAVID R. SPRECKLEY

THIS article is addressed directly to each individual pacifist. To many it will be a challenge; to the active minority I hope it will be an encouragement.

The success of pacifism depends upon the individual. It will live through his activity; it will wither and die through his inaction.

IF we want this "real peace" about which we talk, we have got to work for it very much harder than most of us are at present doing. We write in our books and pamphlets about "active and constructive pacifism" but it is only a very small minority who are doing anything more about it.

Our friend, the militarist, is willing to give up everything for what he believes to be right. He is willing to endure mud and filth and every form of hell for four years or more. He is willing to give up his job and leave his wife and family.

We won't do that—instead we sign a card and we meet together for discussion around warm fires now and again (if we are not "otherwise engaged" that evening).

Our critics won't believe that there are 120,000 of us. They haven't seen us working, so why should they? "You are refusing to fight in a war" they say, "but what are you doing about it?" It is a poor retort to say, "Oh, we meet together and discuss the various aspects of the situation."

Our "fight" is **NOW**, and we have got to give up our time, energy and mind to it. We have got to go out and act to make pacifism alive—a visible force working throughout the country. In every town and district we are forming groups so that the individuals can cooperate in working and training as pacifists.

In every case, the local P.P.U. should be "the talk of the town" because its members are **doing something**; putting their principles into practice. There is no power stronger than that of example and our words are useless without its backing. Those who feel that they have absolved themselves from any activity by signing a card are not true pacifists.

It is no good just talking about "making sacrifices" and "having a better understanding" as a nation without also practising what we preach in our own relationships. And it is a fallacy to think that we must spend the first three months of our group existence in mere discussion only. From the very beginning training and action must go together, one balancing the other.

There are many activities quite within the scope of untrained pacifists—there is work to be done from the evening of the inaugural meeting. Every meeting should be a combination of planning future activities and training. In the latter beware of academic discussions and debates. We haven't time for this!

On my desk I have got a list of twenty-five suggestions for group and individual activity and these will be put in this column week by week. I want non-pacifists reading PEACE NEWS to see that we have an alternative not only to war but also to

The Notice Board

P.P.U. and other pacifist literature obtainable from bookshop of Stanley Roberts, Park Street, Bristol.

Bristol group proposing to visit **Cotswold Bruderhof**, pacifist community at Ashton Keynes, Wilts., June 26. Cost 4s. 6d. per head. Apply early to Harold Bing, Folk House, College Green, Bristol, or W. Priddy, 87 Radnor Road, Bristol 7.

Nottingham group holding **study circle** (commencing March 15) on Mondays 7.30 p.m. at Friends' Meeting House, Friar Lane, Nottingham (cancelling previous announcement).

Need for someone to act as **group organizer** in North Carshalton. Communicate with P. R. Alderman, 41 Central Way, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

The P.P.U. office is open until **8 o'clock on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.**

sitting back and just talking. But they must also see it happening.

If we think this cause worth while, we must give up our spare time and our pleasures. If we are true pacifists surely this is the biggest thing on our horizon today and therefore all our other social activities should be subordinated to it.

And the time that we spend at work making money—are there not some of us who can give up part of that even, to have a shot at saving this world instead? If we are not prepared to make these sacrifices; if we are content to let the P.P.U. deteriorate into a debating society, then **we do not deserve to win.**

Such is the present drab condition of the world that war would still be an adventure and a welcome change to some. But it is a still greater adventure trying to bring a lasting peace to all nations and classes of the human race, so that we can all cooperate in removing that drabness. We have got to throw ourselves into it heart and soul, and the key word is... **ACTION!**

DEPUTATION TO PREMIER

The Prime Minister is to receive on March 22 an important deputation representative of the signatories to the national memorial on the subject of peace and economic cooperation, which was communicated to him last month.

The memorial, which had the support of nearly 400 influential persons drawn from many sections of the public life of the country, appealed for the fullest participation by the British Government in an effort to improve international economic relations in the interest of world peace.

Will Pacifism Evolve?—3

By KATHLEEN BARTLETT

CHILDREN between the ages of ten and twelve years, and boys and girls in their teens have great intellectual capacity, which is often entirely squandered under modern educational systems.

The children are spoon-fed at an alarming rate with indigestible facts heavily coated with bias,—they make notes, they learn the notes by heart and then if they produce them perfectly they gain ten marks out of ten and are considered clever and well educated.

On coronation day these children will listen to the service in the Abbey, and if it is not banned from the air, they will hear the Primate bless the crowned king with the words . . . "The Lord give you victorious fleets and armies, and a quiet empire . . ."

And the spoon-fed youths and maidens will join spiritual hands with the British armament manufacturers. They will all swell together with holy and patriotic pride.

And the armament manufacturers overseas will prick up their ears, and fall on their knees, and pray earnestly that their god will also produce ade-

CHILDREN CAN BUILD THEIR OWN COMMUNITY LIFE

quate guns, and tanks, and bombs, and poison gas.

And so it goes on . . . and on . . .

HEAR what Dr. Decroly has to say on the subjects of education and thought: "My school has given up all practices which, in order to speed up acquisition of knowledge, are liable to discourage interest, curiosity, and desire to learn."

Children must be allowed to think for themselves. A community of young adolescents can be a self-taught, and a self-governing community. The teacher should collaborate with the children, and not make her influence too apparent.

The children can make their own laws—such as silence during study

time—and their punishments, which would probably be exclusion from community privileges.

The morning would be devoted to study with short recreative periods given to physical exercises or eurythmics, preferably in the open air.

The afternoon would be used for communal activities—handwork, play-producing, games, and gardening.

The chief feature of the class or study room would be a large library with literature of all descriptions to which the children have free access. There they would find poetry, novels, biographies, essays, books of hero stories, geography books, translations and books perhaps in French, Spanish and German.

In the room there would be newspapers of all shades of political opinion, also easels and painting apparatus.

THE teacher is there to provide an ever-enriching environment, to hold conversation periods in at least two foreign languages and to give occasional voluntary or compulsory lectures. She must be always ready to give advice and help to the children who need it, and she must sometimes arrange debates.

She would have a scheme of work for the year. Each week the children would be given a paper to complete. They must collect the knowledge from the reference library, or they can ask the teacher, who will supply either the answer or the means by which it may be found.

THERE should be many school journeys which can be prepared beforehand, and discussed afterwards. Suppose one decided to take a party of sixteen-year-olds to the Cambridge Theatre to see *Charles the King*. One could explain beforehand that it is a play written by a royalist.

After the play they could be given this question to answer: "Do you think that the author of *Charles the King* is a royalist? What grounds have you for this supposition? Look up that period in a history book. Do you think the stage representation was unbiased?"

There could also be debates on remarks put into the mouth of Charles. For example, he said, "There are worse things than war, my friend. . . there is hate . . ."—and, "Do you not know that the English do not want self government, they want good government?"

SCHOOLCHILDREN should be encouraged to have at least three foreign correspondents,—perhaps one American, and two speaking foreign languages. Invitations might often be exchanged.

Two years ago on a Finnish boat on which I was travelling to Helsingfors, was a party of scholars from Bedales coeducational school. These young travellers were all leaving each other when they reached Finland, and living for six or eight weeks with Finnish families,—some of them nearly as far North as Lapland.

If children were allowed to take advantage of the very inexpensive modern travel facilities, and mixed with young people abroad, and invited them to England, they would become so internationally-minded that they could never accept war in the passive manner of this generation.

"Faith," says a character in Aldous Huxley's book, *Eyeless in Gaza*, "is organized and directed stupidity." I have also heard it explained as, "Believing what you know ain't true." I think this faith must be that of patriotism.

Just let us allow our children to think, and they will not grow into masses of stupidity to be organized and directed to chaos and extinction.

IT SEEMS TO ME by Ampersand

An Ignorant Child

A TALK I heard by Rose Macaulay and Kathleen Bartlett's admirable articles in PEACE NEWS, have turned my mind lately to the subject of educating children for pacifism.

I agree very strongly with Miss Bartlett that the pacifist influence on young children should be indirect rather than direct, aiming at natural sanity rather than precocious saintliness.

A child I know at an elementary school in a small West Country town comes to my mind. At the age of eight she knew of Socrates and how he died, she could talk about Thermopole and pronounce the name correctly, but she had never heard of King Alfred and the cakes. That seemed to me to indicate an enlightened teacher with some sense of historical perspective.

National Talents

On the other hand she laughed with genuine amusement when I said something about an Italian painter. She thought it was only Englishmen who painted. And here the trouble seemed to be not so much misinformation as lack of any information at all.

I explained to her, simplifying the situation a little to make the moral clearer, that perhaps the greatest painters there had ever been were Italian, and, passing on to other subjects, said that the Germans had the greatest musicians and were very good at electrical engineering, the Greeks had very good architects and sculptors, the French and Russians had produced very great novelists, and, finally, that the English had perhaps the greatest poet and many of the

greatest scientists. A rather crude summary, possibly, but, I thought, suited to the occasion.

It was received not as an affront to patriotism but as a new and rather interesting light on the different nations. If for a little while she thinks of the Italians as a nation of painters—well, I don't think it will do any great harm.

Fear or Caution

A number of members at a South-West London group meeting I visited expressed their doubts as to the wisdom of using the ineffectiveness of anti-gas precautions as propaganda material for pacifism.

Some of them had been distributing a leaflet on the subject outside an air raid defence exhibition, and their impression was that the leaflet produced a "reverse reaction," as being an unconstructive criticism of methods which the government was bound to take, even if they were not completely effective.

It is fairly clear, I should say, that too much weight should not be put on this line of propaganda. For one thing, if war is delayed long enough, effective measures might at some future time be devised—though this seems unlikely. Our propaganda would then recoil against us, although the change would not be in the least relevant to the basic principles of pacifism.

The point about gas precautions that does seem to be important is that it is only if people know the extent to which they are ineffective that they can make a calm assessment of the risks of war. It is this which

should be stressed, rather than a simple appeal to fear.

For many of the "incomplete pacifists," numbers have some significance. They may be prepared to face the deaths of thousands, yet to protest against the deaths of millions. And—waiving for the moment the pacifist moral stand—their general support against the increase of armaments is not to be ignored.

Look Ahead

This air-raid defence exhibition, I was told, by the way, had forty sandbags piled up outside one of the windows.

Londoners who want to lay in a stock of sand should start digging up the streets fairly soon now. Though there was one wit who suggested that they should put that day's snow into bags, and keep it for the summer.

"Youth is Hot and Bold"

All of us, I suppose, feel that twelve months' imprisonment was a shockingly harsh sentence for the eighteen-year-old student who made rather naïve attempts to seduce an R.A.F. aircraftsman from his allegiance.

In the protests against this sentence I have seen his action called "the silly prank of a schoolboy," and the lad himself spoken of as "an impulsive youth," and "an imaginative boy."

I do not think we should forget that it is youths of this age, and in this stage of mental development, who are invited—and in the last war were compelled—to decide on the not unpolitical act of joining the army.

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The Weekly Newspaper of the Peace Pledge Union

Taking the Constructive Pacifist Position, but providing news, information and an open forum

Serving all who are working for Peace

March 20, 1937

NO JUSTICE NO GLORY NO NEED

IN a letter to a friend in England, a copy of which he has sent us, our Austrian correspondent wrote last week:

"Oh, if this horrible thing, the civil war in Spain, were ended already! **It comes the way I always have presaged in these matters of violence and war: the most brutal and most reckless wins, no ethical principle.** To me it appears hopeless, because the Spanish People's Front has all the odds of bestiality and treason and overwhelming might against it."

But it needs no pacifists to point out the unheroic and unidealistic nature of war. As Mr. Lloyd George puts it in the last volume of his *War Memoirs*, "Let all who trust justice to the arbitrament of war bear in mind that the issue may depend less on the righteousness of the cause than on the cunning and craft of the contestants. **It is the teaching of history, and this war enforces the lesson.**"

And the comment of *The Times Literary Supplement* added: "It can hardly be an accident that while as a rule Mr. Lloyd George is remarkably successful in avoiding duplication in his record of overlapping and interlocking events, this passage from the preface is repeated almost word for word in the text, where it is introduced as **'my last reflection on this war.'**"

Lest the fact that the politician and soldier are traditional enemies tend to lessen the weight of this view of the lesson of the war, and in case an impartial reading of history still fails to bring that lesson home, listen to these words of men more favourably inclined to the military view:

"It is much to be desired that first-rate brains should be attracted into the Army . . . It is not too late to convince the public that the lessons of the War are being taken seriously to heart by the military authorities, and that it is their firm intention to make the Army an attractive career for men of talent."

That was the opinion of a committee set up in 1924, under the chairmanship of Lord Haldane, to examine the question of the education and training of officers.

What does it mean? It means that the authorities are to take "seriously to heart" the fact that war requires not heroes ready to "do or die" nor idealists ready to sacrifice their all for a great cause, but men with brains to think out coldly calculated ways of defeating their fellow men by every kind of "cunning and craft." This

(Continued foot of next column)

George Lamboury asks

WHICH

Shall
it
be?

During the past few weeks, unable to carry on propaganda in the ordinary way, I have had lots of time to review personal and public affairs.

MY first reaction is to say my mind is full of perplexities, not about my faith and beliefs, but because all round me there are so many, many thousands of fine men and women who still pin their faith to war as an ultimate means for establishing peace and good will. The fatal words "collective security," "international police force," in a world of nations each armed to the fullest extent, these and similar slogans seem to me to take the place of reason and religion.

THE notion that Jesus is just a nice, kind dreamer one of those described by Morris as "idle dreamers of our idle day," is quite fashionable among leading Bishops and other divines.

Those who hold this view say that the teaching which tells us "perfect

(Continued from column 1)

should win over the worst enemies of peace — the "war-for-an-ideal-ists" — worst because they can **ALWAYS** be relied upon by a government with all the power of propaganda at its disposal to present the cause as an ideal. **And when they have seen through war for what it really is they will use the power that is in their hands to insist that it shall be rooted out of our very minds as even the remotest possibility.**

LABOUR DOESN'T LISTEN

"Armaments can only be made by the skill of the British working class and it is the British working class who would be called upon to use them."

"Today you have the most glorious opportunity that the workers have ever had if you will only use the necessity of capitalism in order to get power yourselves. The capitalists are in your hands. Refuse to make munitions, refuse to make armaments and they are helpless. They would have to hand the control of the country over to you."—Sir Stafford Cripps at a Unity Campaign meeting.



JESUS or BARBARISM

This realist teaching is calling to us all: if we will we shall hear the words "Turn ye, turn ye, why will you die?" Jesus came with his message and sacrifice to redeem the world from sin and evil. **Most Christians believe this in some mysterious spiritual way which enables them so to compromise and mutilate his life and work as to make nonsense of them.**

Just fancy if Jesus came back to us now and found the leaders of "Christendom" in all lands rallying round governments, giving their support to the fearful campaign which is to range Christians of all countries into two camps for the purpose of exterminating each other.

love casteth out fear" and "forgive your enemies" is a mere sentiment, not a truth that will rid the world of barbarism. As for doing to our neighbour as we would be done by, this also is counted as sloppy sentiment.

We must meet these "pagan Christian friends" fairly and squarely. They are asking for a rebirth of religion. There can be no true revival until Christians answer the challenge. "You cannot cast out the devil by the devil" or "abolish war by war."

No, we have played fast and loose too long with the greatest teachings the world has ever known; the present crisis will not be solved by make-belief or compromise. There is no half-way house. If Christians choose war they betray their founder and pin their faith to "barbarism." This is indisputable.

ALL this and more has been said thousands of times. As yet we who say it are perhaps a feeble band, but we are carrying very humbly and, I trust, unsullied the glorious gospel of Love, which we are certain can and will redeem the world.

Ours is a difficult task, one which we would cheerfully hand on to others. There is no self-righteousness or claim to more righteousness than others; our lives are frail and weak, but we know we have seized on a mighty, simple truth.

The message of Christ is true, is practicable, and is the only way of peace and gives the whole world the simple choice, "Jesus or barbarism." Jesus, the God of love, or war, the parent of hatred and all we think of as barbarism.

Here's the answer

THAT INCOME TAX PROBLEM

Argument. "One is logically expected to refuse to pay that part of the tax which goes to armaments."—D. A. Burton, Taunton. "To pay taxes, part of which are spent on preparation for war, definitely upsets the logic of a complete pacifist's position."—Cathleen Callender, London, N.W.11.

IT is not a question of logic so much as of fact. The country has elected its representatives for the purpose of deciding what is needed. The Chancellor's job in particular is so to budget that he gets what he "needs"—if not by income tax, then by other means. But besides efforts actually to prevent the spending of money on war by (ineffectually) trying to withhold the money, there are two other lines of action.

1. Salving of conscience. This is essentially a personal matter and not subject to argument and answer. Only it must be emphasized that action of this kind is of this kind and not an attempt to produce other results. It may also be said that logic—which applies to this matter if to any—seems to many to point ultimately to

a contracting out of life altogether. It would thus be a question of whether the pacifist was prepared for that. In time of war itself, of course, when the alternative is to kill someone else, he is. On the other hand, being a personal matter, one can go just so far as one feels obliged to and leave it at that—as, in fact, most people do, both before and in war.

2. Protest. This would seem to be the most practical line of action. But the object of protest is to be effective—or at the very least to make itself felt. The problem thus becomes one of deciding whether, or in what form, refusal of taxes does this. In general, individual action would not, but mass action undoubtedly would. But the most effective protest is to ensure a government that will not think it necessary to spend money on war.

M.P.s GO BACK TO SCHOOL

*To Learn About Air Raid
"Precautions"*

SCIENTISTS' LESSONS IGNORED

THE visit last week of 29 Members of Parliament of all parties to the Civilian Anti-Gas school at Falfield, Gloucestershire, follows revelations concerning the Government's air raid "precautions" made by members of the Cambridge Scientists' Anti-War Group at a meeting at the House of Commons (reported in last week's PEACE NEWS).

The size of the organization revealed by the demonstrations given to the party must have brought home to some of them the force of the pacifist argument that the training and "protective" measures advocated by the authorities are likely to produce a war atmosphere and therefore to increase the very dangers against which they are theoretically designed to offer protection.

For the elaborate school must have cost a considerable amount, and although only some 800 people have each received a fortnight's training since the school opened last April, it is estimated that, by means of the instruction they have passed on to others, 35,000 persons are already "proficient in the work of air raid precautions."

The M.P.s are reported to have been "particularly impressed" by the potency of mustard gas, against which, of course, a mask is of little use since it attacks the whole body. "One drop the size of a pinhead," according to *The Times*, is sufficient to cause a blister as large as a shilling and penetrates through clothes and even boots."

An "effective and inexpensive" antidote for this was said to consist of bleaching powder mixed with water to the consistency of cream, although the party was not, apparently, told what arrangements were being made to see that the general public could obtain the bleaching powder "inexpensively."

The M.P.s were told, too, how charcoal, which is used in civilian respirators, absorbs chlorine in a tenth of a second, smoke being "weeded out" by a filter consisting of wool and asbestos. It seems that no information was given, however, of the concentration of "smokes" against which the civilian respirator is effective, and for how long it would be effective.

Later they were able to test the respirator in an atmosphere charged with chlorine gas—although chlorine is not the gas against which it is feared the civilian mask will be useless. In view of this it is interesting that those who entered the room containing tear gas and chlorine said that while they did not notice the tear gas they got "just a whiff" of chlorine.

DOCTOR'S CONDEMNATION

The Government's plans were condemned by Dr. J. R. Marrack last week at a conference organized by the Northampton Peace Council, when it was pointed out that a group of Cambridge scientists had found out by experiment that it was impossible to make a room entirely gas proof.

Leading Us Up the Garden

"YOU know the Archbishop has been putting out a recall to religion, and certain people associated with the Free Churches have supplemented that call.

"I do not think either of these things is going to cut a half-pennyworth of ice so long as the intelligent youth of this country is out of touch with what we call organized religion, because organized religion is not what it ought to be.

"The world is in the grip of two great evils, poverty and war. The best thought in young people today has no use for what we call compromised religion. A great deal of coronation dust is being thrown in our eyes, and we are being led up the garden again.

"Four hundred millions for armaments! For the price of one battleship you could build 160 schools at £50,000 each.

"This is the sort of thing you have to think about, and you are not going to get youth for the church if you tell it you are about to plunge the whole of mankind again into barbarism."

—Dr. A. J. Grieve, chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, at a public meeting in Southport last week.

BE A PEACEMAKER!

From Our Own Correspondent

"Pacifist" meant literally a peace-maker, and especially one who sought to make peace by refusing to make war, at the same time cooperating with others in working for understanding and peaceful relations, said the Rev. Harold A. Guy in an address to the Gosport Post-War Brotherhood last week.

Speaking on "Why I am a pacifist" he gave five reasons for his pacifism:

1. War settled nothing.
2. War was no defence of one's country.
3. War destroyed all values.
4. The pacifist policy was the sanest and most practical way of achieving world peace.
5. It was the Christian way.



Mr. J. H. Hudson.

PLANS FOR PACIFIST CONVENTIONS

M.P.s TO VISIT MANCHESTER

THE convention to give positive political direction to pacifist aspirations which, as announced in PEACE NEWS a fortnight ago, will be held in Manchester on April 24, will, it is hoped, be followed by a similar convention in Birmingham about a month later.

Later still it is hoped that a large unifying convention will be held in London.

Resolutions to be submitted to the Manchester convention, which will take place in Houldsworth Hall, 90 Deansgate, deal with:—

1. Renunciation of war.
2. New world conference.
3. Strengthening the League of Nations.
4. Disarmament and military commitments.
5. Conscription.

Speakers will include Canon "Dick" Sheppard, the Rev. Henry Carter, Mrs. Eleanor Barton, Miss Vera Brittain, and M.P.s comprising the Parliamentary Pacifist Group. Mr. James H. Hudson will be in the chair.

Political, cooperative, industrial, pacifist, and religious organizations are invited to send one, two, or three delegates, and an invitation to attend the convention is also extended to individual pacifists in Lancashire, Cheshire, West Riding, and North Staffordshire. A fee of 1s. is payable for each delegate and individual attender.

Further particulars may be obtained from Douglas J. J. Owen, Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester.

ARMED FORCES FUTILE

*New Way of Life the
Only Hope*

LESSON OF 1914

From Our Own Correspondent

HUNDREDS of disappointed people were turned away last week from the great peace rally held in the famous White Rock Pavilion at Hastings, organized by the Hastings Peace Group and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

James Hudson asked the public to realize the futility of the war method and especially the uselessness of the so-called protective methods the Government had devised against air raids. He described in detail the elaborate workings of the suggested balloon barrage, "but mind you" he said, "this is not for the people of Hastings. You don't matter. It's London that must be protected, where Parliament lives!"

Dr. Gray made a rousing and uncompromising appeal for the practice of Christianity. "The way of Christ and the way of war" he said, "are finally and utterly incompatible."

CREATIVE POWER

So soon as people turned to Christ, claimed Dr. Gray, they would find the way of life opening up. It was the only hope for Europe, to turn the page and write on a clean sheet, the new way of life.

"Having discovered the futility of armed forces," he said, "we have got to apply some other power, and that is essentially the creative and reconciling power of generosity, good will and, if need be, sacrifice."

Dr. Sheppard said the thought that the youth of today might be caught in the hell in which their fathers were caught—innocent youth, in 1914-18—gets between him and the sun, and he must not be expected to speak with moderation about war. "Today" said Dr. Sheppard, "the European bark is being carried surely and swiftly by a trade wind, on to the rocks of war."

A STATESMAN'S VERDICT

Lord Grey had said that, looking calmly back on events that led up to 1914, there was no doubt whatsoever, that the main reason for the war was that all the nations would insist on piling up arms. Today we were filling the world with explosives, and were saying that they will never explode.

Speaking of the Archbishop of York's recent utterances, Canon Sheppard said "If the sermon of the Archbishop of York to the Church Assembly is of God, then the Sermon on the Mount is not of God."

"One passionate, reasoned lead from Christianity" he went on, "might lift the world from this hell of despair, and set men to work with fresh hope and fresh heart, to build up a world that was worth preserving."

Great help was given to this meeting by the Peace Pledge Union members in Hastings and Bexhill.

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Pay the Piper

WHO CALLS THE TUNE?

asks R. M. HOLBROW

THE B.B.C. is always under fire. From the Right, from the Left, cannons volley and thunder without pause. Is there a man dismayed?

The target appears to be unper-
turbed, more confident than ever of
its own rectitude. For do not the two
extremes of criticism cancel one an-
other?

The net result seems to be a
strengthening of the notion that
little is wrong with the B.B.C.
as far as political bias is con-
cerned; that, in fact, the claim
to impartiality is justified.

Before dismissing the matter as
therefore unworthy of serious atten-
tion let us briefly consider the two
contradictory attacks. Do they really
cancel each other?

On the one hand, some of our more
acutely perceptive politicians have re-
ported a nasty tone of voice on the
part of announcers when reading cer-
tain news bulletins. Their sensitive
ears (or is it a sixth sense?) have de-
tected notes of exultation or com-
miseration creeping into the voice that
should be devoid of such emotional
signs.

The same critics complain that un-
due prominence has been given in
news and talks to tendencies of which
they disapprove and that some items,
e.g. a description of life in Soviet
Russia, should never have been broad-
cast at all.

A REPLY

From the other side the most for-
midable counterblast to date is a
twenty page pamphlet published by
Left Review, entitled *The B.B.C. Ex-*
posed, by George Audit, price 3d.

To compare the arguments and facts
quoted in this document with the
somewhat hysterical accusations of
the Right is like comparing a barrage
of heavy artillery with the sniping of
peashooters in the hands of irrespon-
sible schoolboys.

This does not mean that, neces-
sarily, I agree with the conclusions ar-
rived at by Mr. Audit, but I would
like to see a reasoned answer to this
"exposure."

The subtle voice inflexions of an-
nouncers are not discussed but under
the heading of "The Fake of Impar-
tiality" a number of incidents and
omissions are listed which, considered
together, certainly present a case
which cannot be dismissed out of
hand. Here are a few points:—

At the General Strike only one
side had access to the microphone
—even an appeal for industrial
peace by the Archbishop of Canter-
bury was banned.

At the 1931 election a series of
talks by "financial experts" on the
Gold Standard undoubtedly helped
to influence public opinion in a way
favourable to the "National" Gov-
ernment.



Make your voices heard at
Broadcasting House.

When the International Con-
gress of Cooperators was held in
England in 1934 the President
was not permitted to use the
radio.

The publication of the new So-
viet constitution was ignored by the
B.B.C.

A talk by Professor Haldane
on the "Causes of War" was can-
celled.

And so on.

Perhaps our friends on the Right
have also "got a little list"? If so,
let's have it!

Do these facts mean, as Mr. Audit
claims, that the B.B.C. exists to serve
the cause of the property-owners and
the big employers and that its policy
is anti-trade union, anti-cooperative,
anti-working class?

WAR PREPARATIONS?

The pages devoted to "The B.B.C.
and War" will interest pacifists. The
writer asserts that the wireless in this
country is helping to prepare people's
minds for war.

The organization of the B.B.C. is
described in detail. It is a pyramid,
the writer informs us, with £140-a-week
Sir John Reith at the apex and 35s.-a-
week wiremen at the foot. Staff con-
ditions are condemned, chiefly on the
grounds of insufficient freedom.

Concluding pages discuss "What is
to be done?" and "What the B.B.C.
could be."

Practical suggestions are made
including the excellent recom-
mendation that "every lover of
peace, freedom, and truth"
should be "vigilant and issue
protests at every hostile act the
B.B.C. makes."

If it is true that "there is nothing
the B.B.C. fears more than public
outcry" then pacifists should make
their voices heard at Broadcasting
House.

I hope readers of PEACE NEWS,
whatever their political leanings, will
read this pamphlet.

Recent Publications

HOW WAR AFFECTS ORDINARY FOLK

WAR ON SATURDAY WEEK.
Ruth Adams. Chapman & Hall.
7s. 6d.

Reviewed by Morna MacTaggart.

WHEN, either through war,
violent revolution, or the re-
emergence of sanity, civilization
has passed beyond the present
strained days to whatever lies in
wait for it, there will be a very
curious body of literature for the
student living at that time to get
to work on.

Novels, poems and autobiographies,
mostly written to make actual to the
writer himself the awakening of some
political faith, and to help him combat
his own horror of the future, will be
there in their hundreds to reveal, in
page after page of the most naturalistic
dialogue, exactly what the people of
the nineteen-thirties felt about what
they looked on as their own imminent
extinction.

UNREAL FEARS

I do not know how many of those
works will be intelligible to that
tudent. They will provide him with
facts, the authenticity of which he will
doubtless leave unquestioned.

But, free from the tension that
produced this apocalyptic out-
burst, he may sense only grue-
some unreality where we of the
period find the most matter of
fact expression of our own fears
and feelings of impotence.

War on Saturday Week is one of
those books that describe the coming
of disaster. It tells how the threat of
inescapable war distorts the lives of a
number of ordinary, pleasant people—
a girl in a beauty parlour, a reporter,
an airman, all children of the last
war, reaching maturity in time for the
next—and how each of them finally
meets it.

REACTIONS

One is a pacifist; he dies in a riot
in a prison yard. One is a communist,
not very convinced but finding some
personal relief in action.

One has to face whatever war may
be with a new-born baby. One asks:
"Isn't it possible to have an ardent
love of moderation?" But, according
to Ruth Adams this is at least im-
practicable, and she seems to have no
hope of avoiding the future she fore-
tells.

ACTION WANTED

An organization known as Youth
for Peace and Democracy (Box 683,
Station A, Champaign, Illinois, U.S.A.)
has issued an urgent appeal for peace
action by youth. Their frank, dis-
illusioned appeal is accompanied by
an attractive badge and sticker with
the words "Peace-Democracy-37." When writing, remember to "please
enclose self-addressed envelope—
we're broke."

PACIFISTS MUST KNOW THE GALLOWS

is an expression of fear, hatred and despair—
the raw material of war. Every inroad on
cruelty strengthens mass resistance to the mass
brutalities which threaten. Pacifists should
therefore actively support abolition of the death
penalty. Particulars and free literature can be
had from The Secretary,
National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty
Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

None of her characters is really
attempting it, except David Baker, the
pacifist, and he only belongs to a small
local peace society which spends most
of its time squabbling about accounts.
To each of them, once David is dead,
there is something of relief in the
coming of war itself, after the doomed
waiting that preceded it.

The book is a first novel, rather
jerky, a bit conventional in its staging,
but a careful, genuine, and moving
piece of work.

REVIEWS
IN
BRIEF

EXPLAINING PEACE. Lecture
Management, 102-105 Shoe Lane,
London, E.C.4. 6d.

This book is comprised of five prize-
winning essays selected by Dr. Gilbert
Murray, Sir Philip Gibbs, the Head
Master of Rugby, and Sir Norman
Angell in a competition for teachers.

It will be of interest to students,
teachers, study circles, adult schools,
W.E.A.'s, and others.

SPAIN UNDER THE REPUBLICAN
GOVERNMENT. Senora
Margarita Camps. Women's In-
ternational League, 55 Gower
Street, London, W.C.1. 6d. per
doz.

Another review of the present situ-
ation in Spain is to be found in this
informative pamphlet. Written by a
Spanish lecturer in biology at Bar-
celona University, it deals with the
underlying influences behind the war,
explaining that a revolution of thought
is going on at the same time.

SIX NEW PEACE
PLEDGE UNION LEAFLETS
George Robey Inspires One

The need for humour when stating
the pacifist case is evidently being
realized. Among six new leaflets just
issued by the Peace Pledge Union
there is a reprint of a piece of doggerel
by George Robey which laughs at
"the way that the nations behave."

Another of these leaflets, *Burn the
Babies*, shows that modern warfare
means war from the air, and that in
its turn means bombing babies.

A third, entitled *1066 and all that*,
says that "There is only one risk that
need be taken to make peace secure—
the risk of disarmament."

It is no good trying to take a
lot of little steps over the abyss
of war, we must leap to peace,
says another entitled *You can't
cross a chasm by stages*.

Some of the facts about gas which
the Air Raid Precautions Department
of the Home Office have not told us
are detailed in a fifth pamphlet.

The nature of the Peace Pledge
Union is explained in the last of these
new leaflets *The P.P.U. What it is*.

Do You Know—

WHAT ARE INDIA'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS?

THE problems of India will be brought into prominence more and more during the coming months.

For this reason the following answers to topical questions about that country, given in an article by Edward Thompson in the *News Chronicle* recently are of interest:

"What is the All-India National Congress? An unofficial body. Payment of four annas (sixpence) constitutes membership. Its annual conference is in the Christmas holidays. The place of meeting changes to familiarize all India with Congress.

"What are India's most pressing problems? Poverty, ignorance, communal dissension. Gracious receptions, the princes' dazzling hospitality, may throw a film over the poverty for our own people, but I have never met any American or Dominion visitors who are not aghast at it."

EDUCATION

"Is India ever going to be educated? Yes—by the films. . . In five years, both Hindu and Moslem cultures are going to be smashed, and India will be as daft as we are (on top of its own brands of silliness).

"A wise government would find the money—even if it meant cutting down the colleges, the swank, and extravagance of its own higher circles—to provide everywhere a free service of instruction in elementary common sense, through the films (resisting the temptation to slip in propaganda in favour of itself). But this will not happen.

"Why do Indians object to the new Constitution? Because they were ignored in the final stages of its making; because they distrust what they have seen (or suspect) of alliances behind the scenes between parties who wish to keep things essentially unchanged."

Films

THEY MAKE BETTER "VILLAINS"

Bombay.—Many people in India are worried over "anti-Indian propaganda" on the screen.

They single out as "malicious misrepresentation" especially *India Speaks*, *Lives of a Bengal Lancer*, and *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. The historical inaccuracies, particularly of this last film, are glaring and all of them serve to discredit Indian people.

A British film writer suggests that the reason for the strange changes was that "Indian tribesmen make more hateful villains than Russians do."—Nofrontier News Service.

Please Order Your
PEACE NEWS
EARLY

Drama

PRISON FOR PACIFIST AUTHOR

From Our Austrian Correspondent

IN Graz, capital of the Austrian province of Styria, there took place last month the trial of the pacifist musician Josef S—, well known in libertarian working class circles.

He wrote an anti-war drama in which the fifth act shows a character who, unwilling to enter the army and not wanting to obey military orders, calls upon his comrades to revolt against the yoke of militarism, which he describes as a "school of assassination."

As no publisher dared to accept the play, S— had the manuscript printed at his own cost and distributed it. When the authorities learned of this, he was arrested, most of the copies confiscated, and a charge brought against him of "glorification of mutiny," for which he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

S— declared himself to be an absolute pacifist with views as expressed in his play. What he had written had been expressed even more strongly by the greatest spirits in the literature of mankind.

He had shared these pacifist views since 1920 and would remain faithful to them, having recognized their truth and humanity.

Plan for Discussion—2

WILL PACIFISM WORK?

What About—Capitalism :: Fascism :: The League :: Liberty?

THE second subject in the "skeleton" discussion programme drawn up for the use of study groups and published in last week's PEACE NEWS is: **Is pacifism a workable proposition?**

It is suggested that points to be covered in a discussion or debate on this subject should include the following:—

1. What is the relation of economic interest to political policy?
2. Does the capitalist system inevitably produce nationalism, imperialism, and issue in militant fascism, or is it compatible with a planned Society of Nations?
3. Does the League—does the peace of the world—depend upon a social or economic revolution?

4. How far is pacifism anything but a purely negative force in international and national affairs?

5. Are you prepared to cooperate with non-pacifists to prevent war?

6. How can you agree both with pacifism and the idea of many who say that life without liberty is not worth living, that the weak and oppressed must be defended, that international justice must at any cost be established, as law comes before love?

Next week we shall give a list of points for consideration under the third heading in the "skeleton" programme: **Are there any circumstances in which I would fight?** (Last week's subject was: **Is Christianity emphasizing pacifism correctly?**)

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

By Lawrence Murfitt

"It constitutes a challenge that should put the conventional Christian to shame." (*Workers' Monthly*)

"This pamphlet ought to be given to any non-pacifist attached to a Church." (*Peace News*)

"Trenchant, satirical, bitter, useful." (*New Leader*)

Price 3d

from Bookshops, Smith's Bookstalls, or from 56 Westbourne Avenue, Hull

THEY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, BUT THE LAW SAYS—

"C'EST OBLIGATOIRE!"

By H. GRANVILLE HAWKES

THE innkeeper of Les Trois Rois at Amarin in the Vosges peered askant into our faces. "C'est obligatoire!"* he said in his German accent. Putting down our cups my comrade and I were about to reply when Madame interposed. "They are English" she said. A voluble exchange en-

sued and insistently dogmatic the man repeated, "C'est obligatoire!"

He was just such a man as you would like to see sitting around the fireside. Ready for a pipe, ready for a yarn, and fond of company—mine host, in brief. Like the young men of his day he had served in the army. With the Chasseurs Alpins he had known the struggles on La Grande Ballon.

To this man the nearby military cemetery at Silberloch was a hill of



*Obligatory in the sense that "the law" says so.

memories. A showplace for visitors it might be to others. Around that ridge where grey, shell-shattered tree trunks still stood lay many old comrades. Galleries which busy sappers had made were now the catacombs of a mighty mausoleum.

The Hauptmankopf overlooked the river Rhine flowing through the plain of Germany. As he had stood at the foot of the cemetery cross which broke the skyline and formed a landmark, he could only see the past. The fragments of barbed wire would stretch out between posts, sentries would pace before dugouts as in the dawn of life savages stood outside caves watching for prowling tigers.

At times the innkeeper lapsed into German. I got a few words here and there. Finally, I had to leave the talk to my friend.

In the innkeeper's time, Alsace had been German. What had been might happen again. When the Great War broke out those young men who could escape into France. The remainder were forced to serve in the German army.

But whether they fought for France or Germany they wanted one thing: undominated peace. If a central authority was necessary let it be Paris rather than Berlin. Germany had tried to drag these steady borderland folk. Her officials had ruled over them. Alsace was Germanized.

With such a background, I felt his difficulty. The security of England—its remoteness from problems like his own—could not be understood. A country where there was no compulsory military service was beyond his ken.

"Dear Sir....."

Letters to the Editor should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper only. Owing to pressure on space we reserve the right to publish extracts from letters.

Correspondents must send their names and addresses, though not necessarily for publication.

THE MEANING OF EMPIRE

COLONIALISM is wholesale slavery with the owner an absentee landlord. And Great Britain, as Runham Brown has said, is "the greatest sinner." The numbers suffering from British imperialism are far greater than the numbers suffering from any other imperialism, far greater than the numbers suffering from any other cause of suffering in the world today.

Those suffering from Nazism are as a drop in the bucket. And in order to get, and to keep a firm hand on, "The Empire," the British Governments have, I believe, been the primary cause of most of the world wars since 1750, if not since Drake. If the British Empire could completely come to an end, the French, Dutch and Portuguese and Belgian might follow suit, and Germany and Italy might not have the desire to be "haves" instead of "have-nots."

Until there is no empire there is no hope for disarmament and until there is disarmament there is no hope that war can be abolished. Anyone who believes that the Empire must be kept must believe in an army; and anyone who believes in an army believes that sooner or later it must be used. And anyone who believes that an army is to be used on occasions can't be a pacifist.

I am quite sure that we pacifists besides being illogical if we don't say that colonialism needs its William Wilberforces and its William Lloyd Garrisons are too inclined to strain at—well I won't say "gnats" for war is certainly not a gnat but let us say: too inclined to strain at mules while swallowing camels. We say: "Thou shalt not kill," but do "not strive officiously to keep alive." We "let die" tens of thousands of forced labourers and starved hut-tax payers, while loudly proclaiming our unwillingness to kill thousands.

ANNA MELISSA GRAVES.
29 Rue Fort Barreau,
Geneva.

BUDDHISM

Does any reader know whether either of the Buddhist societies in London—the **Maha Bodhi** or **Buddhism in England**, has so far made any official pronouncement in favour of pacifism?

According to Buddhist teaching—the core of which is compassion toward all creatures—not only is a Buddhist forbidden to fight but he must neither make nor sell arms.

"INQUIRER."

Note:—Meetings are held every Sunday evening at the headquarters of the Buddhist Association, 41 Gloucester Road, London, N.W.1, at which the Buddhist view is explained; but so far no "official pronouncement" has been made on the subject.

More Replies to Lord Ponsonby

LORD PONSONBY states that if he thought war was caused by the evil in our nature he would not be a pacifist.

I suggest that in this case there are stronger reasons than ever for being a pacifist.

We can hardly hope to eradicate evil by practising it ourselves. Most people seem to agree on this point yet seldom apply it to war.

However, I can well imagine a situation arising which might cause us to lose ourselves in the general chaos and find ourselves back where we started, if our pacifism were not based on wider and firmer grounds than Lord Ponsonby advocates.

(Miss) M. SCOTT.

103 Coppermill Lane,
Walthamstow, E.17

OUR HERITAGE

Have you seen the new recruiting poster? It is a portrait of an aggressive-looking gentleman, who, by his dress, apparently is not a bishop, and, by what he carries in his hands, apparently not a Christian.

"Protect your heritage," says this gentleman.

What a heritage! Unemployment, air raid precautions (ineffectual), gas masks (inefficient), £1,500,000,000 for "defence" (also ineffectual), and all the other privileges of modern civilization!

God protect us from such a heritage—and from such means of protecting it!

BRIAN L. RICKETT.

56 Durand Gardens,
London, S.W.19

WHERE IS YOUR PITCH?

THERE are now open-air sellers of **PEACE NEWS** at:—

BUCKHURST HILL.
CARLISLE
CARSHALTON BEECHES
CHARLTON
CHINGFORD
COLCHESTER
EAST GRINSTEAD
HAMPSTEAD (and on HAMPSTEAD HEATH)
HARROW
HIGHGATE
ILFORD
LIVERPOOL STREET (and elsewhere in the CITY OF LONDON)

READING
TOTTENHAM
WANDSWORTH
WEST END OF LONDON
WOODFORD

I entirely agree with the main points of Lord Ponsonby's article in last week's issue.

I happen to be a Christian, and believe that the Christian way of life is the "royal road" of which Lord Ponsonby spoke; but I was a pacifist long before I was a Christian and, if my religion were to crash, my pacifism would not. In modern warfare, men behave, not like men, but worse than beasts and lunatics. One need be no saint to renounce war.

It is nonsense to say that there are no constructive alternatives to war already in existence. There are; and men have wit enough to use them and improve them, when once war is regarded as out of the question.

(Mrs.) **NORA LOCKE.**

"The Nook,"
Bucklands Batch,
Nailsea.

PACIFIST SCOUTS

As a Scouter and a Rover, I have been pleasantly surprised by the revelation of the widespread 100 percent pacifist feeling which one finds in all sections of the Boy Scout movement today. We are, however, still very much in the minority and I have come across one or two cases in which isolation from others with similar views has led a Scouter to feel dubious of himself.

I suggest that we pacifist Scouts should keep in touch with each other for mutual encouragement. If any who read this are interested in the suggestion, I shall be pleased to hear from them and to receive any ideas they may have. There is no intention of forming a clique or being disloyal to the Scout Movement.

RONALD H. SMITH.

14 Courtrai Road,
Honor Oak Park,
London, S.E.23

Use **PEACE NEWS** as your forum.

CONSCRIPTION

May I ask through the medium of your columns if the Conscription Act which was enacted during the last war has ever been repealed?

I believe some effort was made after the War to repeal the Act but the Government apparently strangled it very quickly. If this Act is still law, is not the moment opportune to demand its repeal?

JOHN PEEL.

Dovaston Bank,
Kinnerley, Oswestry.

Note:—We are informed by the National Council for Civil Liberties that the various Military Service Acts passed during the War expired in 1921. According to Halsbury's Laws of England, "The Crown may demand and is entitled to the personal services of every man capable of bearing arms in case of sudden invasion or dangerous rebellion, but with the exception of such occasions it has no power to compel enlistment." In the event of war the Government would probably again pass a Military Service Act rather than use these old powers.—Ed.

FASCISM AND WAR

IT is impossible to take the correct line of opposition to something that is not properly understood and this is the fault in the pacifist attitude to war and fascism. It is a fault extremely well illustrated in Mr. Plowman's article.

Mr. Plowman is sincerely opposed to war and fascism but he treats them both as abstracts and not as expressions of the system of society under which one-sixth of the world is at present living.

He opens his article by finding war hard pressed to justify its existence since 1918 and taking refuge in fascism as though war were some living creature which it most certainly is not. Fascism, unable to solve its own contradictions, takes refuge in war, not vice versa.

Mr. Plowman advises us to fight not fascism but war; but as the contradictions of capitalism become increasingly intolerable fascism will come in every country unless all lovers of liberty unite to stop it.

Mr. Plowman acknowledges that every capitalist country is aggressive. The fascist countries, however, are the "have not" countries (from the capitalist point of view) and consequently more aggressive.

They cannot expand without taking from some other country and this can only be done by war for no capitalist country can afford to give up its colonies. Even if redistribution were brought about the need for expansion would soon shatter the new arrangement.

If we stop the fascist Powers from going to war we shall smash fascism because then the internal conflicts will become so acute as to lead to social revolution.

The fight against fascism and war is the same fight.

Will pacifism—not to be confused with passivism—stop fascism? No, for fascism does not recognize legal forms or accepted standards of civilization.

What was the biggest blow that Mosley received last year? The October 4 debacle. What turned the tide in France? The Paris demonstration of February 9, 1934.

The only way to stop fascism is to build up a broad front of all anti-fascists.

C. E. GIBSON.

25 Dalmore Road,
London, S.E.21

MORE HISTORY BOOKS

Mr. C. H. Cox would find the following books useful:—*Pioneers in Religion and Science* (Firth), *The Modern World: A Junior Survey* (Knapp-Fisher), and *Education for Citizenship* (Nelson).

JEAN HARTLEY.

12 Fox Hill,
Selly Oak,
Birmingham.

Late Letters

CHURCH ASSEMBLY PROTEST

"Dick" Sheppard's Call

MAY I ask for the assistance of all pacifist clergy and laity in the Church of England who can be in London on Monday, April 5? On that day we are having a meeting at 7.30 p.m. at the Central Hall, Westminster, to protest against the recent resolutions on war passed at the Church Assembly.

A resolution which will be put to the meeting will be carried in procession at 8.30 p.m. to Lambeth Palace.

We want a monster procession of Church people. Lanterns, which will be provided, will be carried by all who are marching. Clergy are asked to bring cassocks, to sit on the platform and then head the procession.

Parishes should bring banners. There is no finance behind us so that, where possible, we ask that those attending should pay 1s. or 6d. toward expenses. If you can lend a hand would you send word to the Rev. Paul Gliddon, c/o 1 Amen Court, St. Paul's, London, E.C.4, who will forward posters.

Please—Church folk—come in your hundreds. **H. R. L. SHEPPARD.**
1 Amen Court, E.C.4.

CURING ECONOMIC CHAOS

Lt.-Col. Scott confuses passive resistance with pacifism.

Supposing he is right in saying that we are under a financial dictatorship and that this policy inevitably leads to war, surely those who take up arms are only making matters worse.

As for logic, I am surprised that the Colonel does not advocate assassinating the chief offenders since he believes in killing. Why should the dupes of one financial dictatorship murder the dupes of another and thus enthrone the tyrants still more firmly?

Under complete pacifism, which is more than a refusal to fight, the basis of society will be changed and financial or any other dictatorship become virtually impossible.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON.
Dedmere Rise, Marlow.

"FADDISTS"

Some of us believe ("faddists," Lord Ponsonby would call us) that a healthy body creates a healthy mind, and we are pursuing a way of living, from the health point of view, to that end. As we find that we can think clearer and keep our tempers better in discussion, as the result of such a way of living, we have no intention of ceasing to be "faddy," even at the advice of one of our Sponsors.

HARRY FABIAN WARE.
14 Ramsay Garden, Edinburgh.

PEACE PLEDGE UNION

*New Signatures of the
Peace Pledge—*

Will Group Leaders receiving these please check that they are

LEGIBLE & COMPLETE

before passing them on to Headquarters?

POLICY OF "PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP"

**Must Russia's Friends
Be Foes of
Germany?**

By a PEACE NEWS Reporter

THE second National Congress of Peace and Friendship with the U.S.S.R., held in Friends House, London, on Saturday and Sunday, was made the occasion for pronouncements obviously intended for a wider audience than that to which they were addressed.

One which has already received wide publicity was that of M. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador, to the effect that Russia was strong enough to repel single-handed any attack on her territories on the part of any foreign Power or combination of Powers.

The Duchess of Atholl, and Mr. Vyvyan Adams, both Conservative M.P.s, used the platform to sound the rallying cry for collective "security," while Mr. Geoffrey Mander, a Liberal M.P., interpreted the real meaning of this policy when he said "let every aggressor be encircled."

COMRADES—IN ARMS

Miss Eleanor Rathbone, yet another M.P. (Independent), said that "we pacifists" (by which she apparently meant supporters of collective "security") willed the end of peace, and it was therefore inconsistent to refuse the means—in this case armaments. Translated into "concrete facts of contemporary reality," this became a plea to abstain from opposition to recruiting and "rearmament" in general.

In view of the fact that this and other speeches were made to an audience whose political colour was, no doubt, a good deal "redder" than that of most of the speakers, a strong suspicion was left in one's mind that the anti-German group of Government supporters would like a "national front" in which "all who care for peace and democracy" could unite in support of the present policy of more arms—but this time for collective "security."

"NOT RELEVANT"

This suspicion deepened when an attack on the "National" Government by a delegate from the floor was silenced by the chairman (Mr. Vyvyan Adams) who declared it was not relevant to the subject of the session—"The Peace Policy of the Soviet Union."

Pacifists found themselves in a quandary at the conclusion of this session, when a resolution was put forward urging the Government to promote commerce and friendly relations with Russia, expressing friendly appreciation of the economic progress and social and cultural development of the U.S.S.R., and so on, but at the same time containing a clause supporting collective "security."

A request that the various points should be voted upon separately was refused by the chairman, and the resolution was carried, although near the end of the session Lady Barlow had movingly expressed a conviction that killing could not be stopped by more killing. The only thing to do, she said, was to stop war itself.

GOVERNMENT JOINS IN ARMS RACE—

But Has Not Abandoned Hope!

PACIFISTS are at a loss to know why we should expect peace when we are armed to the teeth, but Sir Philip Sassoon was more optimistic during the Air Estimates debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

He said that though the Estimates were the largest ever presented the Government had not abandoned hope of an air pact and stabilization of air armaments.

Apparently policy has changed since the Government threw away the chance of getting agreement on the abolition of the bombing plane.

NAVY ESTIMATES

Even at the same time as we are rearming madly our statesmen still mumble meaninglessly about disarmament.

As an example of this Sir Samuel Hoare said in the House of Commons last week that he did not accept the inevitability of a race in naval armaments.

Apart from the agreements expired or existing which were the sole successes of the search for agreed limitation of armaments, there was every hope that enough Powers would

accept the Treaty of 1936 to make our ratification of it possible.

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES

The desirability of guarding the freedom of the Universities was stressed by Mr. T. Edmund Harvey, a Quaker, who is contesting the Combined Universities by-election as a Progressive Independent, at a meeting at Liverpool last Friday.

He is supporting the policy of the "Next Five Years" Group as set out in their "Programme of priorities," summarized in PEACE NEWS on February 27.

SPECIAL AREAS

Protests were again made against the Government's methods in presenting the money resolution on the Special Areas Bill during the committee stage last week.

AIR RAID "PRECAUTIONS"

A committee of Government supporters has been formed to study civil air raid "precautions."

PRIME MINISTER

It was authoritatively stated Tuesday of last week that the Prime Minister would relinquish his office during Whit Week, and that his successor would be Mr. Chamberlain.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN BRIEF

CANADA

The Canadian Government has denied the existence of any external commitments which might lead to war. The fact that "foreign policy and defence" heads the Imperial Conference agenda has given rise to nervousness in French Canada but the acting Premier, Mr. Lapointe, asserted on March 12 that Parliament was the "only authority on matters of defence concerning this country."

EGYPT

The end of the party truce, observed since the signature of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, was indicated on March 15 when not a single non-Wafdist representative attended a meeting called by the Premier to discuss the forthcoming Capitulations Conference.

The question of Capitulations must be settled before the admission of Egypt to the League.

FRANCE

The nationalization of the great Schneider-Creusot armaments works was announced on March 13.

The aeroplane factories already nationalized report increased efficiency, lower prices and fewer labour troubles.

GERMANY

According to reports from Berlin of March 15 it was understood that four draft schemes for the holding of elections in the Evangelical Church have been rejected by Herr Hitler.

The delay was creating restiveness among the church-going public.

GREAT BRITAIN

Staff reductions at the headquarters of the British Union of Fascists, to enable finances to be placed on a "stable foundation," were announced on March 11.

An admission that, however numerous and however excellent the Air Force and the ground defence units were, a concentrated raid on one point was likely to get through, was made by Brigadier Hill, of the Home Office Air Raid Precautions Department, when he lectured at Manchester on March 12.

He urged factories to prepare their own defence plans to cope with incendiary, gas, and high explosive bombs. As regards the last-named, the speaker admitted that protection would not, as a rule, be possible.

INDIA

Congress men from all parts of India met at Delhi on March 15 to decide whether to accept office in the new Provincial Legislatures. Mr. Gandhi was likely to have a determining voice in the decision.

NEW ZEALAND

Regulated expansion of trade between New Zealand and the United Kingdom was advocated by Mr. Walter Nash, Minister of Finance, in a speech delivered at Manchester on March 12.

He wanted the Commonwealth to be an example of the relations that should exist between sovereign States. We had to realize that the world was still a unit.

SOUTH AFRICA

For the fourth time in succession Mr. Havenga announced a surplus when he presented the Budget to the South African parliament on March 15.

SPAIN

The constitution of the International Board for Non-Intervention in Spain was completed on March 12. The

(Continued in column 3, page 12)

BOOKS

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March 20, 1937

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YE KING'S STONE PRESS, 20a Lower Teddington Road, Kingston-on-Thames. If you are interested in peace read **MOLOCH** by Winifred Carter, 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d. by post).

"Most affecting. It depicts the agony of war in the home and in the heart of a mother." *Daily Sketch*.

EDUCATIONAL

BRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL, Tadworth, Surrey. Preparatory and Nursery Home School. Every educational facility. Qualified staff. Peace atmosphere.

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PRINTING PRESS with type, 22s. 6d. bargain. Particulars, W. Webster, 291a Normanton Road, Derby.

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LITERARY

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PERSONAL

WILL ANYONE kindly offer a home to German refugee to enable him to secure extension of permit while planning to go abroad? Box No. D.22, c/o PEACE NEWS, 59 Waterfall Road, London, N.11.

POSTERS

PEACE POSTERS for the times. Samples on application to the Secretary, Northern Friends' Peace Board, Spring Bank, Rawdon, near Leeds.

EIGHTEEN NEW POSTERS (words only) now available. Double crown size 2d., and some also crown size 1d. List of captions on application. P.P.U., 96 Regent Street, W.1.

POSTER BOARDS for poster parades and pamphlet sellers: double crown 2s. each. Crown (ladies' size) 1s. each. Obtainable from Peace Pledge Union, 96 Regent Street, London, W.1.

WHERE TO STAY

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DIARY OF THE WEEK

Tomorrow (March 21). 4.30 p.m. Ethical Hall, Queen's Road, London, W.2; Jonathan Griffin on "A new answer to the air menace," L.N.U.

6 p.m. 41 Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1; Mr. Daya Hewavitarne on "The basis of peace"; British Maha Bodhi Society.

6.30 p.m. King's Weigh House, Duke Street, London, W.1; service to be addressed by Canon Morris.

8 p.m. Odeon Cinema, Guildford; Dr. H. R. L. Sheppard, Vera Brittain, and Brig.-Gen. F. P. Crozier at public meeting.

8.15 p.m. Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, Manchester; Laurence Housman and Bertrand Russell on "Why I am a pacifist"; tickets from Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, or Forsyth Bros., Deansgate; Society of Friends and P.P.U.

8.15 p.m. Friends' Hall, Greenleaf Road, Walthamstow; Dr. Alfred Salter at public meeting; Friends' Hall Peace Group and P.P.U.

Mon. 6.15 p.m. Essex Hall, London, W.C.2; H. V. Hodson on "The economic problem and world peace—8 The British Empire"; tickets 1s. from National Peace Council, 39 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

7.15 p.m. St. George's Church, Sheerness; Dr. Alex Wood at public meeting; Isle of Sheppey Council of Evangelical Free Churches.

7.30 p.m. Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1; Frau Irene Harand at public meeting; Friends' Service Council.

7.45 p.m. Y.W.C.A. Hall, Cleveland Street, Doncaster; Vera Brittain at public meeting; P.P.U.

8 p.m. Friends' Meeting House, London Road, High Wycombe; R.C. Wood and Rev. S. H. Wing at public meeting; F.O.R. and P.P.U.

(Continued from page 11, col. 4)

Board will be responsible for the observation of Spanish frontiers.

U.S.A.

Mr. Roosevelt described his proposals for judiciary reorganization as necessary to "save the Constitution from the Court and the Court from itself," when he spoke to the American people on **March 9**.

He wanted an independent judiciary but not one so independent that it could deny the existence of facts which were universally recognized.

WESTERN PACT

The German Government's reply to the British Note of November 19 regarding the Western Pact proposals was handed to the British Ambassador in Berlin on **March 12**.

Italy is understood to be in agreement with the German standpoint, which is for a pact confined to the West, excluding Russia.

Tues. 1.20 to 2 p.m. Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1; John Barclay on "The London organization of the P.P.U."; Peace Committee of London Friends.

7.30 p.m. London Cooperative Holiday Association Club, Drummond Street, London, N.W.1; A. A. G. Lewis on "Why this pacifism"; admission 6d.; P.P.U.

8 p.m. Methodist Church, Broadway, Bexleyheath; meeting to be addressed by Miss Thorneycroft; Bexleyheath Wesley Guild and P.P.U.

8 p.m. Friends' Meeting House, George Street, Rochdale; Canon Morris at public meeting; P.P.U.

8 p.m. St. Michael's Church Hall, Lawn Road, Brixton; Nigel Spottiswoode at group meeting; P.P.U.

Wed. 8 p.m. Wesley Hall, Sydenham Road, Sydenham; Bertrand Russell and Laurence Housman at public meeting; P.P.U.

8 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster; Lord Allen of Hurtwood on "The League and a new peace settlement"; L.N.U.

Thurs. 1 to 1.40 p.m. St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3; Canon Morris on "What can we do now for peace?"

Thurs. to Tues. St. Margaret's School, Lockley's, Welwyn; Easter Conference on "Pacifism and Youth"; F.O.R.

"EXPERTS" VIEWS ON COLONIES

ALTHOUGH the speakers at the League Committee on Raw Materials were supposed to have been technical experts and, presumably, impartial, their opinions appeared to be coloured by what they conceived to be their own country's national interests.

The fact that Sir Frederick Leith-Ross thought little of the "Open Door" in colonies, and the Japanese representative thought that nothing was more important, gives weight to this assertion.

It has been decided, though not unanimously, that consideration of the transference or distribution of colonial possessions was outside the terms of the Committee.

Two sub-committees, which will meet in June, have been set up, one for the examination of the restrictions on the demand for raw materials, such as lack of foreign currency and preferential tariffs, and the other to examine restriction of the supply of raw materials, such as export duties, and control by cartels.

The Committee will hold a full meeting on June 21.

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